

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action Claim 1 was rejected in view of the disclosure of the cited Sugahara patent. In response, Claim 1 has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejection based on that reference. In addition, Claims 13-43 have been cancelled and a single new Claim 47 has been added.

In accordance with Applicant's invention as now set forth in amended Claim 1, the thin film is required to be provided on a non-crystalline substrate. In the cited Sugahara patent, however, as stated at columns 7-8 and Fig. 5, only by utilizing a single-crystalline silicon substrate 11 as a seed region, can a single-crystalline layer be formed on an insulating layer provided on the substrate. For this reason amended Claim 1 is clearly patentably distinguished from Sugahara. Moreover, as required in Claim 1, a specific region in the thin layer on the substrate is utilized to proceed with crystallization by melting and solidifying. On the other hand, Sugahara utilizes the substrate itself as a seed region (corresponding to the specific region of the present invention).

Again, in Sugahara, a single-crystalline thin film can be formed only by using a single-crystalline silicon substrate. On the contrary, as specifically stated in new Claim 47, in the present invention, a crystalline film can be formed even on a quartz substrate, a glass substrate, or a plastic film. Accordingly, on this point also, the present invention is patentably distinct from Sugahara.

For these various reasons it is believed that amended independent Claim 1 together with all of its dependent claims are allowable. Accordingly, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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